

## NATION

## Set example by not chewing betel nuts, call to governor

LAE City must be rid of rubbish and filthy habits, a former Morobe governor said yesterday.

Luther Wenge said he agreed with his successor, Kelly Naru that betel nut spittle and other wastes should be dumped in designated places and not on the streets.

Wenge, however, called on Naru

and other leaders who chew betel nuts to take the lead by quitting chewing and lead by example.

"How do you expect the people to change when you, as a leader, do not change," Wenge asked.

"In Papua New Guinea, people follow their leaders very closely."

Wenge said the industrial hub of

Lae was the face of Morobe and it must be kept clean all the time.

"When I was MP I never chewed betel nuts or drank beer," Wenge said.

"I only drink wine. When I come to town people clearly can tell that it is Luther Wenge," he said.

Wenge said residents of Lae must

emulate what was happening in Port Moresby and look after their rubbish.

He said Lae was rapidly changing and he was glad to see the cement road projects he initiated during his term as governor of Morobe nearing completion.

"I wish I will one day drive a

sports car all over Lae city on cement roads. That was my dream," Wenge said.

Wenge urged Morobeans and others living in Lae to embrace developments taking place in the city by contributing positively towards the changes and not destroying the city's image with filthy habits.

**2006 Toyota Toyoace 2-Tonne  
Water Bottle Carrying Truck  
@K57,000  
on the road**



**2007 Subaru Forester  
1990cc - Petrol Auto Grey  
@K39,000  
on the road**



**2000 Isuzu Giga 10,000ltr  
Fuel Tanker Twin Steer  
Single Axle  
@K123,000  
on the road**



Phone: 675 325 5912  
Fax: 675 325 7575  
Email: accounts@wheels.com.pg  
Website: www.wheels.com.pg

# 1000 settlers face eviction

By JUNIOR UKAHA

THE authorities yesterday tried to evict more 1000 settlers at the Bumbu Riverside settlement in Lae, Morobe.

The eviction attempts followed a court order issued by the Lae District Court on Feb 26 directing police to evict the settlers after discovering they were illegally living on state land.

Armed policemen accompanied by an excavator went into the settlement and uprooted food gardens and makeshift structures.

A police source said they began following the court's decision last Friday and continued yesterday.

Police said ample time had been given to the settlers to relocate but they had refused to.

On Jan 25, 2011, the court validated the land under the ownership of the government established Polytechnical Institute and ordered the settlers be evicted.

The order was reaffirmed on Feb 26, calling for authorities to "enter by force if necessary and with or without the aid of the complainants or its agents or servants eject any person and deliver full and peaceable possession of the premises to Lae Technical College (now Polytech)".

Kwike Kaupa, 50, from Sinasina, Chimbu, who has been living in the area for 37 years, said they had not done anything wrong and did not deserve to be evicted.

"We have not caused any problems to the school. Why would they want to evict us," he asked.

"This place used to be a dump yard and we have cleaned it with our hands and now they want to come and claim it," he said.



Settlers talking to policemen on the eviction exercise yesterday. - Nationalpic by LARRY ANDREW

"Where was the school for the past 37 years?"

Another settler, Owa Avi, from Okapa, Eastern Highlands, said they had built structures worth thousands of kina and it would be unfair for the authorities to bulldoze their properties without compensating them.

"I have three children who are in school," Avi said.

"I am confused and don't know what to do," he said.

"The authorities must compensate us or relocate us if they want to develop this land," Avi said.

Another settler, Nelson Kondis, 21, from Western Highlands, said he was born in Lae and called the Bumbu Riverside settlement home.

"I have a brother attending university who has grown up

in this settlement," he said.

"My other brothers and sisters are all at school. We have struggled to come this far by living in this settlement," Kondis said. The settlers agreed they were willing to move but said they must be compensated or relocated if the government wanted to take over the "wasteland" where they are living.

They demanded Morobe Governor Kelly Naru, Lae MP Loujaya Kouza and provincial administration officials visit and talk to them about their plight.

The Bumbu Riverside settlement is occupied by settlers mainly from the highlands region. It stretches from the Bumbu River along Bumbu Road to Admin Compound, along Huon Road.

## Ingrained attitudes a major worry

VIOLENCE against women in the country has reached an epidemic level, with 67 per cent of women being beaten by their husbands and more than half of married women experiencing marital rape.

That was highlighted by a World Vision statement titled, "Gender Issues in World Vision PNG Programming".

"Such behaviours are driven by ingrained attitude towards women's values," the statement said.

"Men dominate decision-making and community life and women have little social standing, this is particularly true of provincial areas."

"Culture and religious leaders reinforce women's low societal position and can often promote behaviours that support negative expressions of masculinity and result in discrimination and violence against women."

It said World Vision had created an organisation called Channels of Hope for Gender or CoH-G, an innovative approach to exploring gender identities, norms and values from a faith viewpoint aimed to dismiss cultural gender biases and contribute to the transformation of household's views on gender identity and relationships.

Channels of Hope has been introduced in the Solomon Islands and World Vision PNG is now beginning implementation of this programme in Madang. World Vision supports the economic empowerment of women through:

- Technical training to advance leadership, literacy, bookkeeping and small business management skills. In addition, women participated in sewing, cooking and food hygiene training, giving women viable options for income generation activities, and.

- Savings groups facilitate savings and access to micro-credits and enable community members to plan ahead, to cope with household emergencies and to develop their livelihood.

## Equality begins at home, Solomon says

HOME is where gender equality should begin, Department of Community Development Acting Secretary Anna Solomon said during the opening of the two-day Papua New Guinea Women's Forum.

"Sharing and swapping responsibilities at home between male and female roles is one way of seeing and experiencing the difference of gender equality," she said.

Solomon said the Department of Community Development established an Office for the Development of Women in 2005 with the aim of increasing participation by women as beneficiaries and agents in the

social, economic, political and cultural development process for improvement in the quality.

The functions of the office are to:

- Provide clear, accurate, well-researched advice to the minister, the prime minister, NEC and CACC on gender implications of policy decisions and outcomes;

- research projects or conduct regular market research on specific issues and women's views and concerns;

- coordinate and monitor PNG's commitments and implementation of its international obligations, convention treaties such

as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and PNG's participations in international forums on women, and,

- Liaise with relevant agencies to promote women's participation in decision-making at all levels through the development of a women's register and leadership training programmes.

"The challenge so far is coordination and sharing of resources as the Department for Community Development is a large department made up of various other sectors," Solomon said.